



Lyric Adventure: Write Your Own Biology Song



In this adventure, you become a lyricist attempting to help the world learn a little (or lot!) of Biology. You may also write your own music, but this can make your task more complicated. Here are some suggestions for getting started:

1. Choose some songs first. Classics are a good choice to start. A catchy tune that lots of people can sing and maybe even know the words to now and in the future will make your song a better learning tool. It also helps to choose something you like!
2. Look at some examples on Mr. Park's Biology Songs web page. Just a few to get an idea of what others have done. Too much of this "research" may stifle your own creativity.
3. Determine if your songs will make good candidates for "Biological" lyrics. Do the words of the chorus rhyme with any vocabulary that you have learned? Try a rhyming dictionary to help through this process.
4. Get the lyrics to the original song. If you own the CD, you could check the booklet for "liner notes" which often include lyrics. Or you can find lyrics on the internet.
5. Get a (legal) copy of the music. This will help you when you write lyrics to get the "phrasing" as close as possible to the original.
6. Be patient - The creative process doesn't always work on demand. This is not a good "last minute" adventure. Start a few different songs and work on them as you get flashes of inspiration. Take your time and continue to edit your songs. Most songs that you hear on the radio have been edited many times by their writers to get them "just right".

Grading: - You will be graded on the degree to which your song is an effective learning tool. It should have most or all of the following characteristics:

- Be somewhat easy to sing.
- Be somewhat "catchy" and/or familiar.
- Have some significant biological principles described accurately.
- Include some humor and/or clever wording.

Completing the Adventure:

On the day of the deadline, you will:

- Turn in these sheets with brainstorming completed below
- Turn in a copy of your "improved" biological lyrics
- Turn in a copy of the lyrics to the REAL song
- Be prepared to perform your song for the class (or have a taped copy of your parents/relatives singing it!)

Brainstorming - Start the creative process.

1) List songs that...

...people tend to sing in the shower/car or on the way to school/work

...Are catchy and will be around for awhile

...are not too complicated

2) For the songs listed above, try to think of biological words that rhyme with words in the title and/or chorus. Write them below even if they are a "stretch".

3) Got any good candidates? Try to rewrite the chorus of one of the songs below...you are on your way!